

JACK DOYLE MONROE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

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DOYLE CALLS LEGISLATURE'S SPENDING PLAN A "DISASTER FOR JOBS" IN MONROE COUNTY

Monroe County Executive Jack Doyle today expressed grave concerns over the State Legislature's Spending Plan. Doyle cited the legislature's decision to increase taxes and spending as a "devastating blow to the state's already struggling economy."

"The State Legislature's Plan will be a disaster for jobs in Monroe County," said Doyle. "Raising taxes to finance unrealistic spending increases is the equivalent of throwing a massive wet blanket over our local and state economies. This budget will suffocate job creation efforts and I am very concerned that it will also jeopardize our efforts to retain the existing jobs that are providing paychecks to Monroe County families."

Doyle was particularly troubled by the absence of any Medicaid reform in the plan and the lack of a provision for relief from massive pension cost increases for municipalities. Medicaid has been the single largest pressure point on Monroe County's Budget and the Comptroller's proposed pension cost increases will foist millions of dollars in expense onto Monroe County's already too-tight budget.

"A so-called budget plan that ignores Medicaid reform and pension cost relief for counties is really just a transfer of costs from Albany onto the backs of local property taxpayers," said Doyle. "The legislature has simply chosen to put its collective head in the sand and ignore the Medicaid issue. Unfortunately, Medicaid is killing county government and now the legislature has left us with nowhere to turn but the local taxpayer. Unfunded Medicaid mandates and staggering pension cost increases will be the straw that breaks the camel's back for this county and every other across our state."

Doyle hoped the local delegation would work to correct the State Legislature's flawed spending plan by <u>not</u> voting to override anticipated vetoes from Governor Pataki.

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"Governor Pataki has a record of fighting for New York by opposing job killing taxes and keeping spending in line," said Doyle. "Its time for our legislators to stand with the Governor and to partner with him for a final budget that we can all live with. Enactment of the legislative plan as it currently exists will simply kill any hope for new jobs and a better economy for Monroe County and the entire state."

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